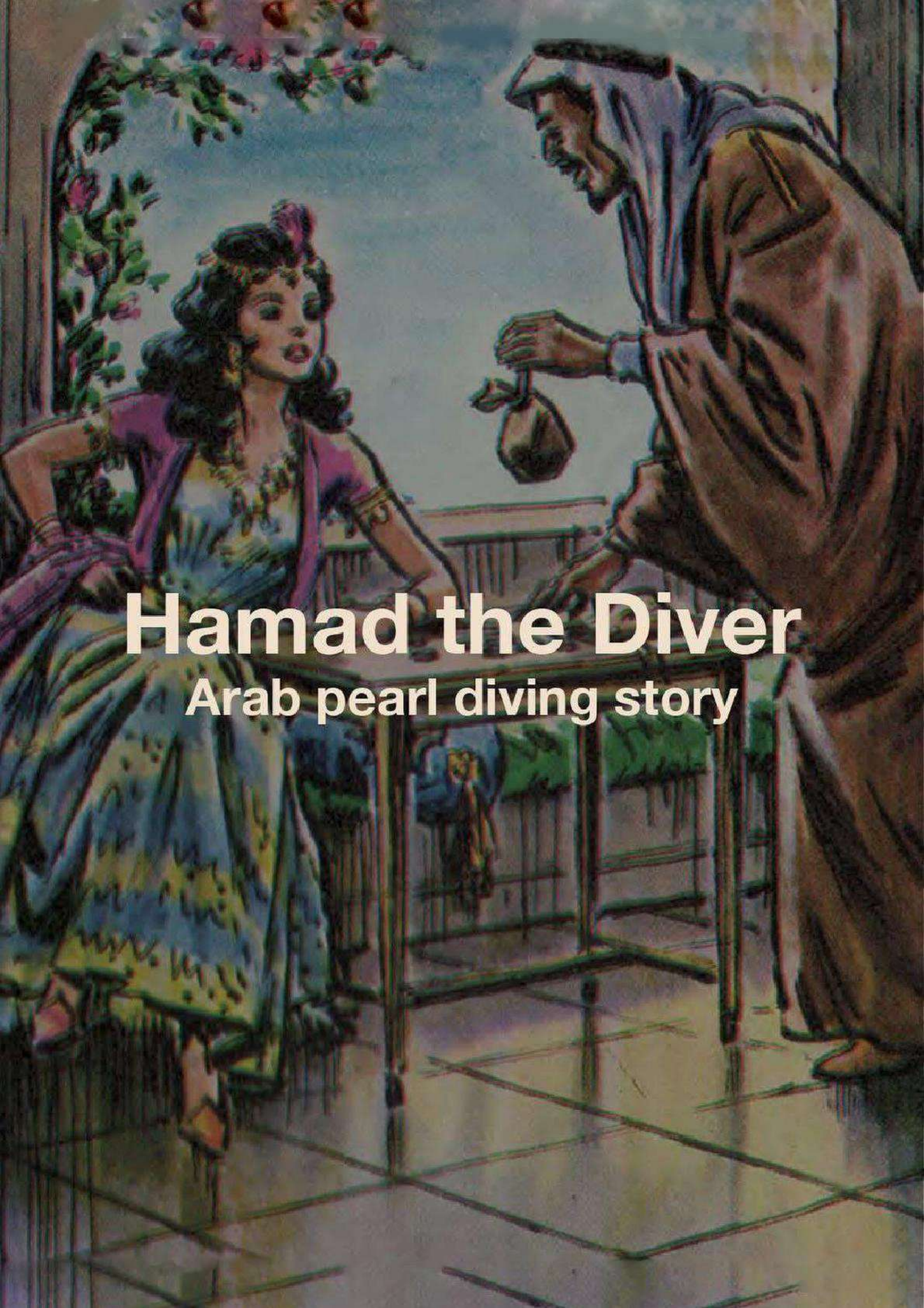
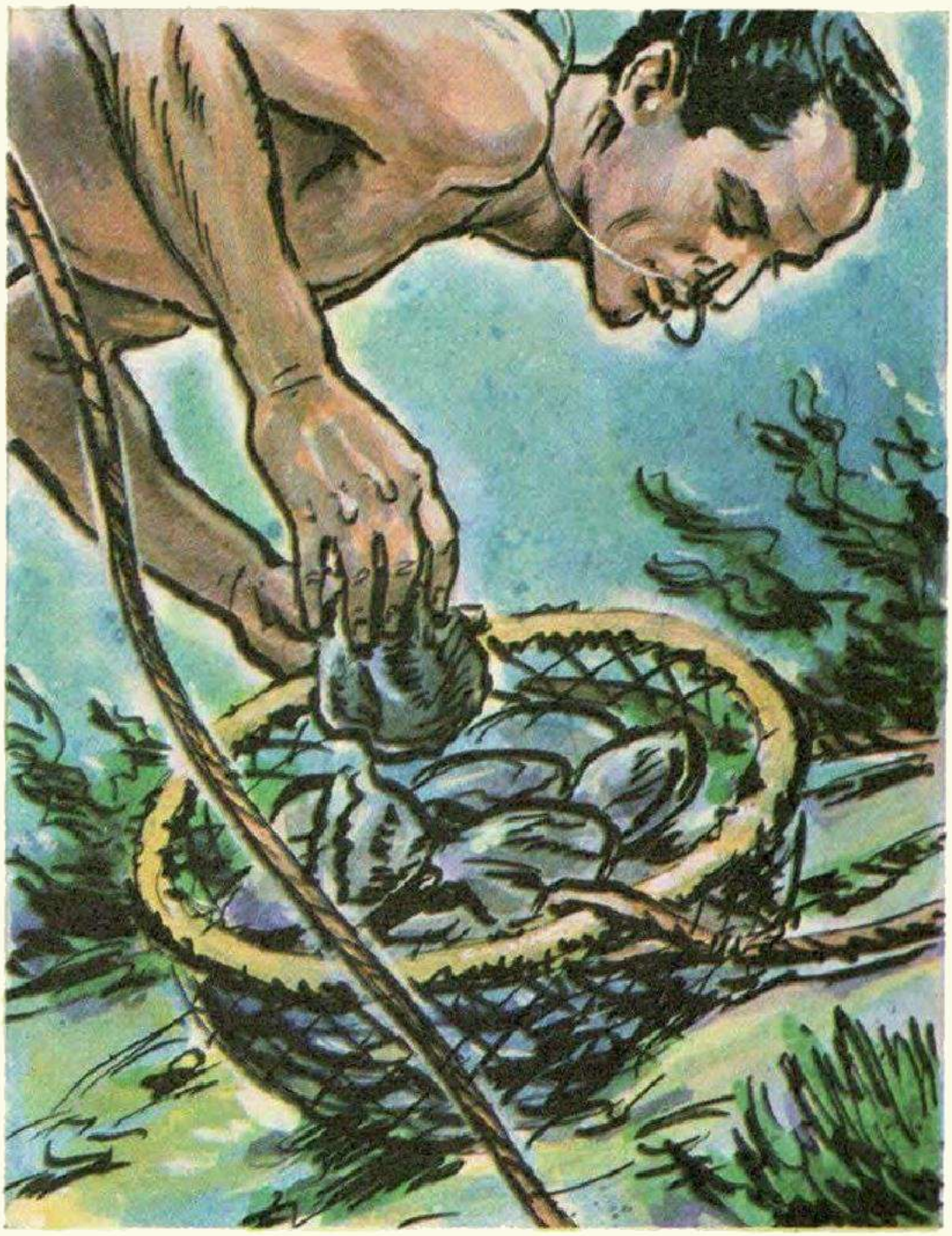
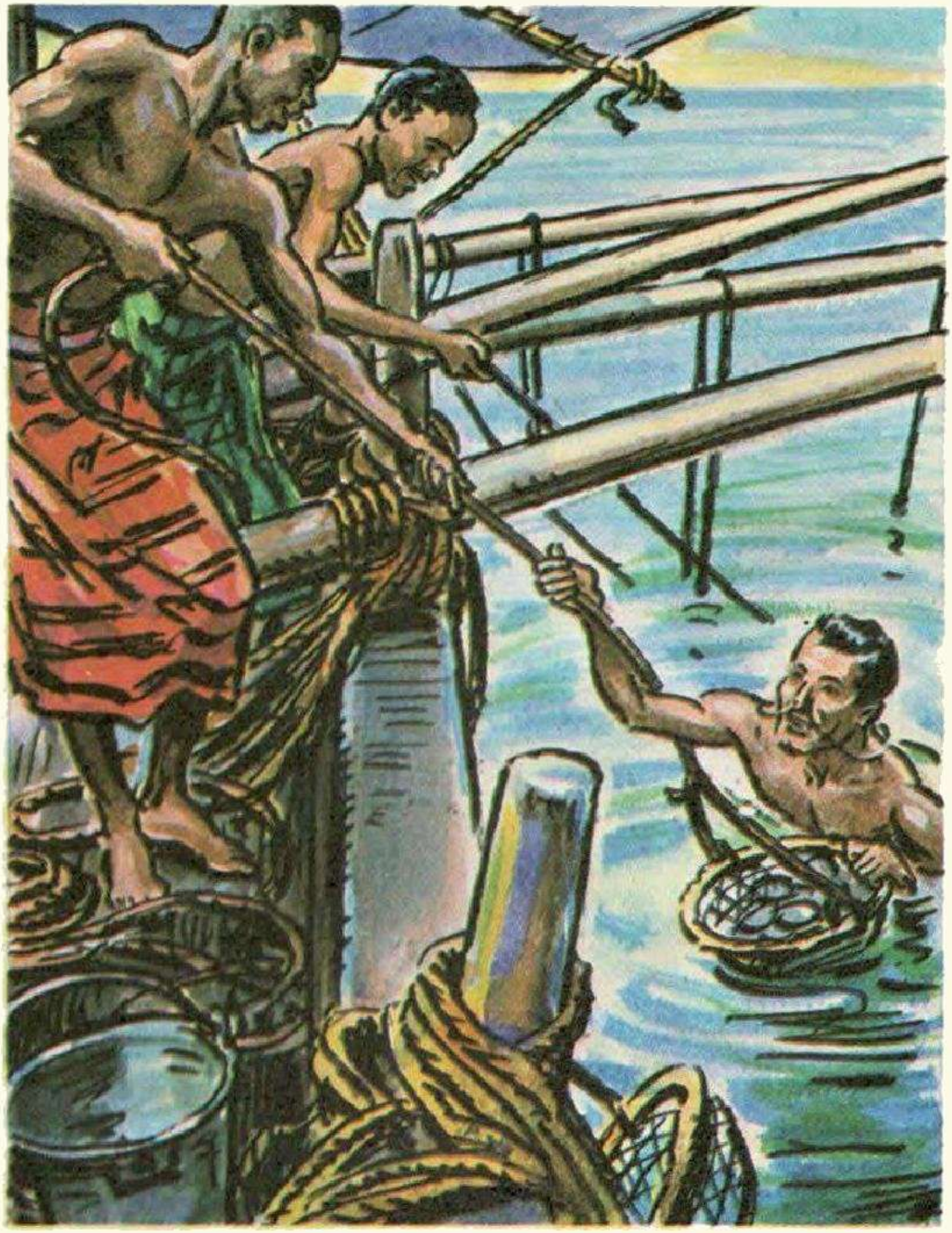


Hamad the Diver

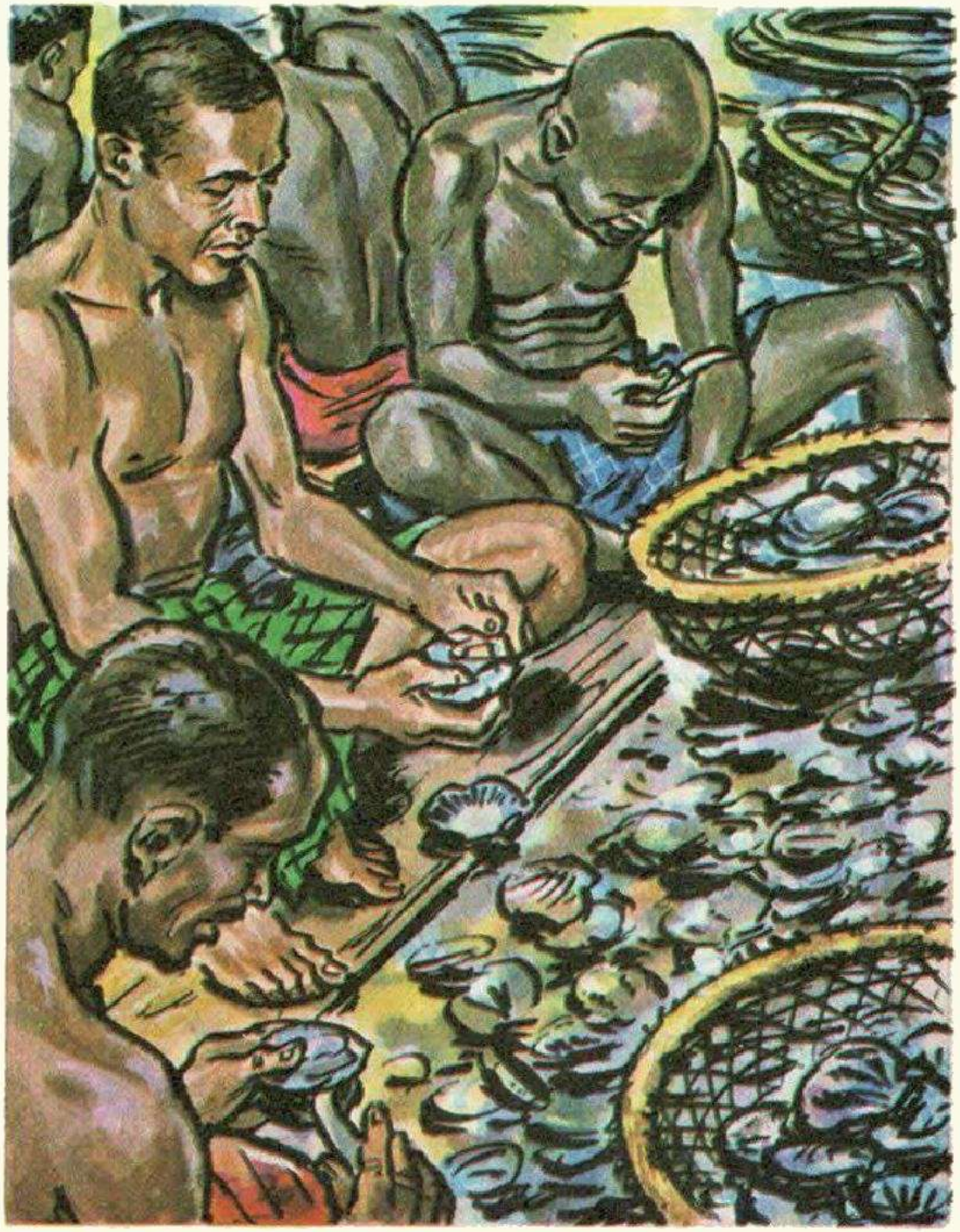
Arab pearl diving story



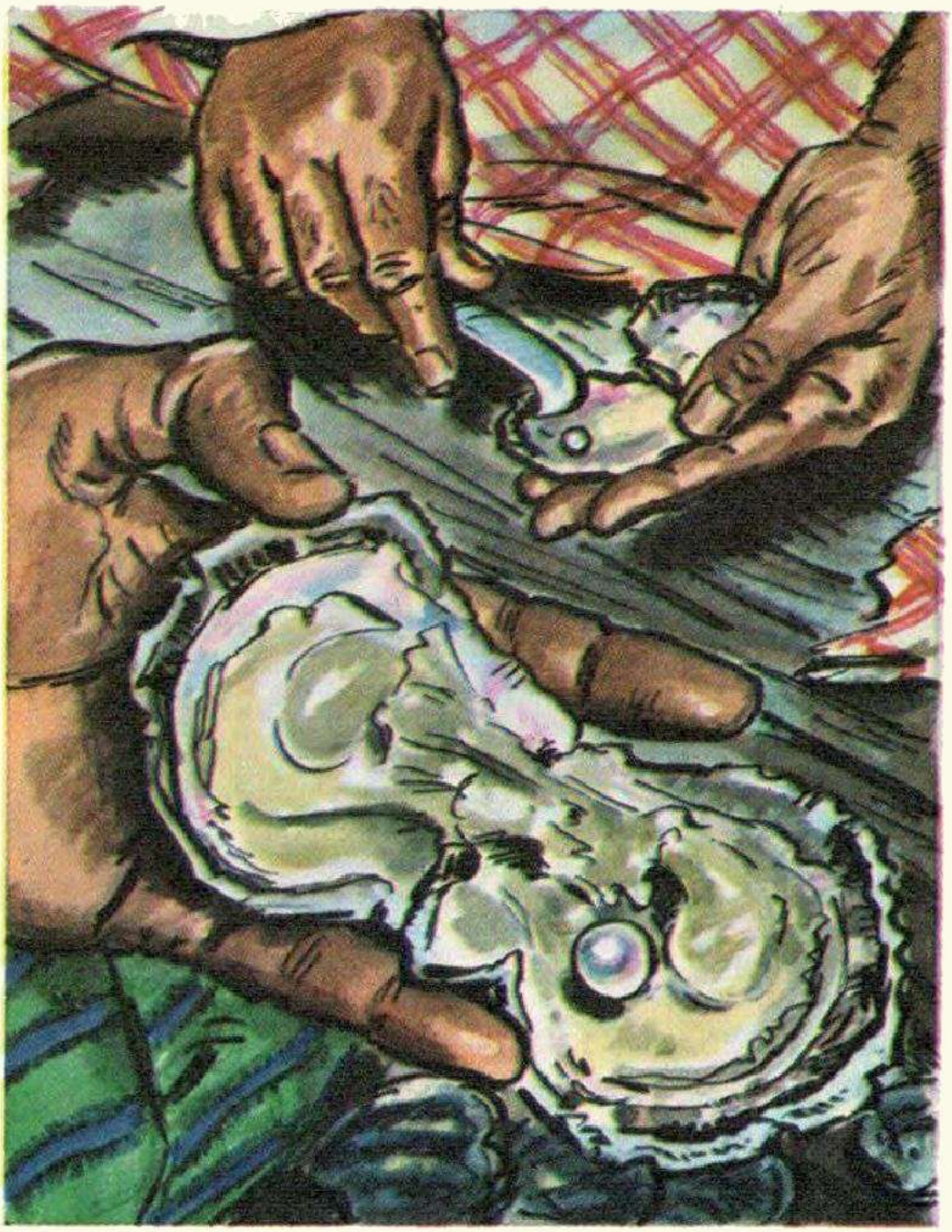
Hamad is taking some shells from the bottom of the sea. He is putting them in his basket. In three or four minutes he will pull the rope. Men on the ship will pull him up. He will give them the shells.



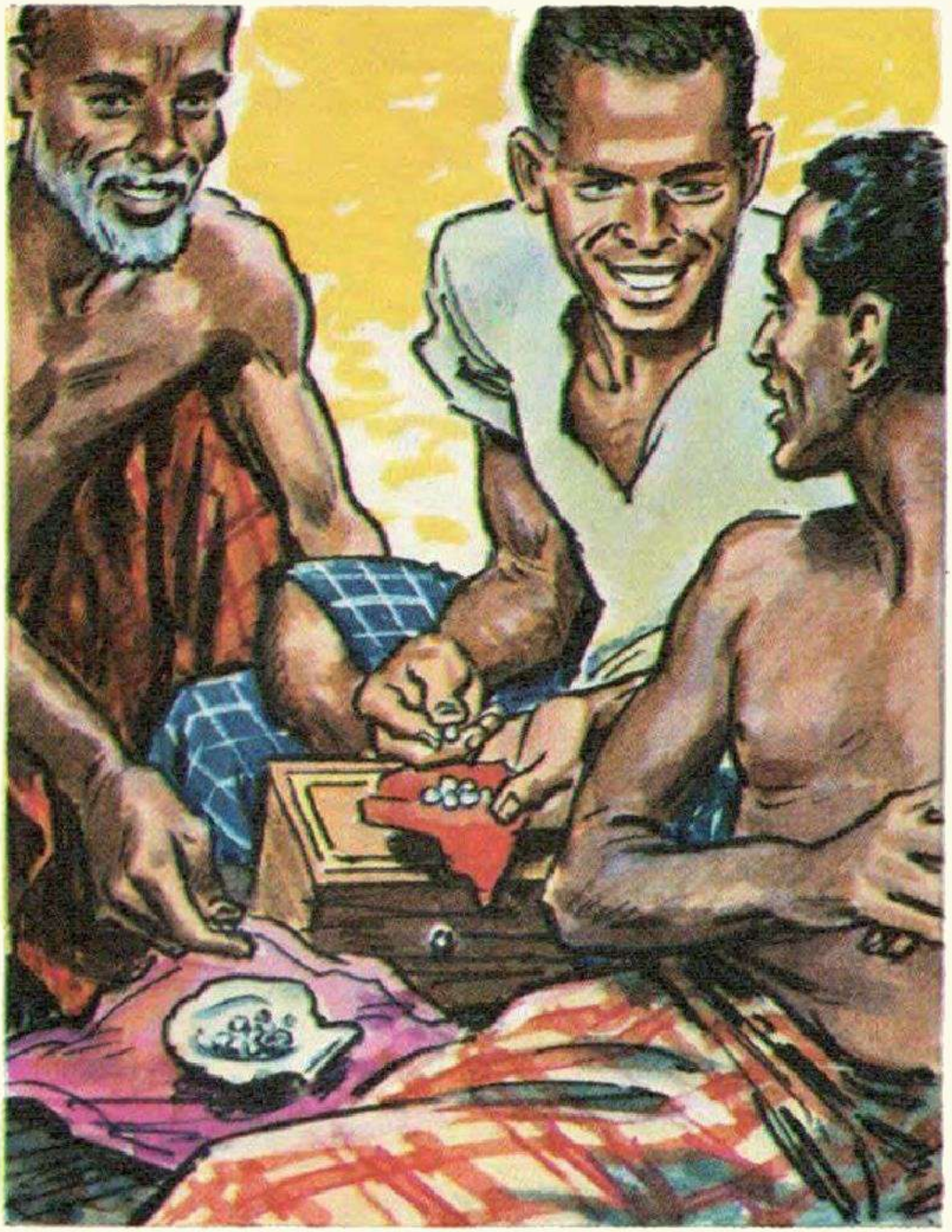
Hamad has put many shells in his basket. But he is tired. He wants to have some air. He pulls the rope. The men pull him up. He gives the shells to the men on the ship. Then he goes down again.



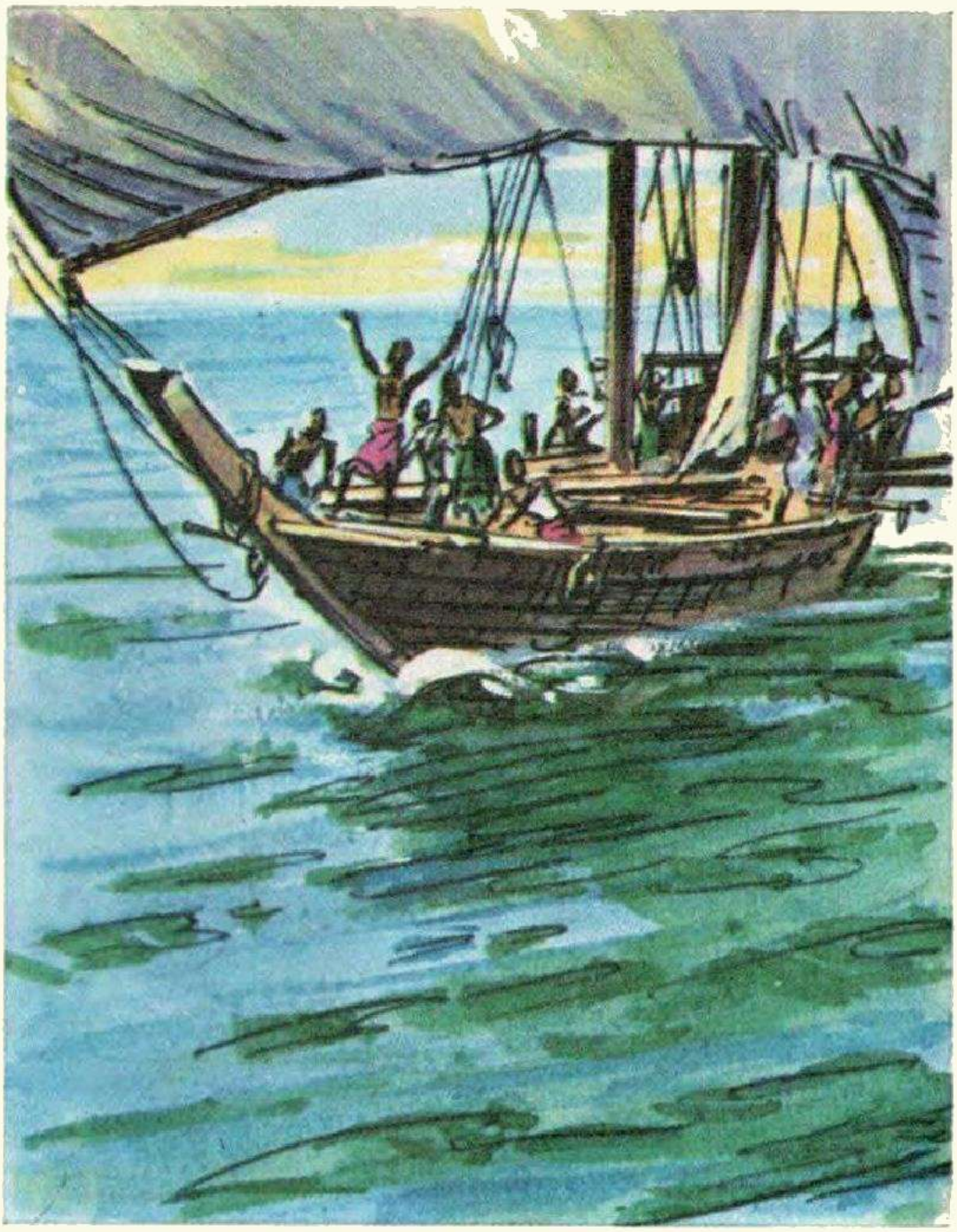
Hamad and the men work in the sea for a long time. They put shells in their baskets and take them up to the ship. Other men on the ship open the shells. They are hard. They open them with knives.



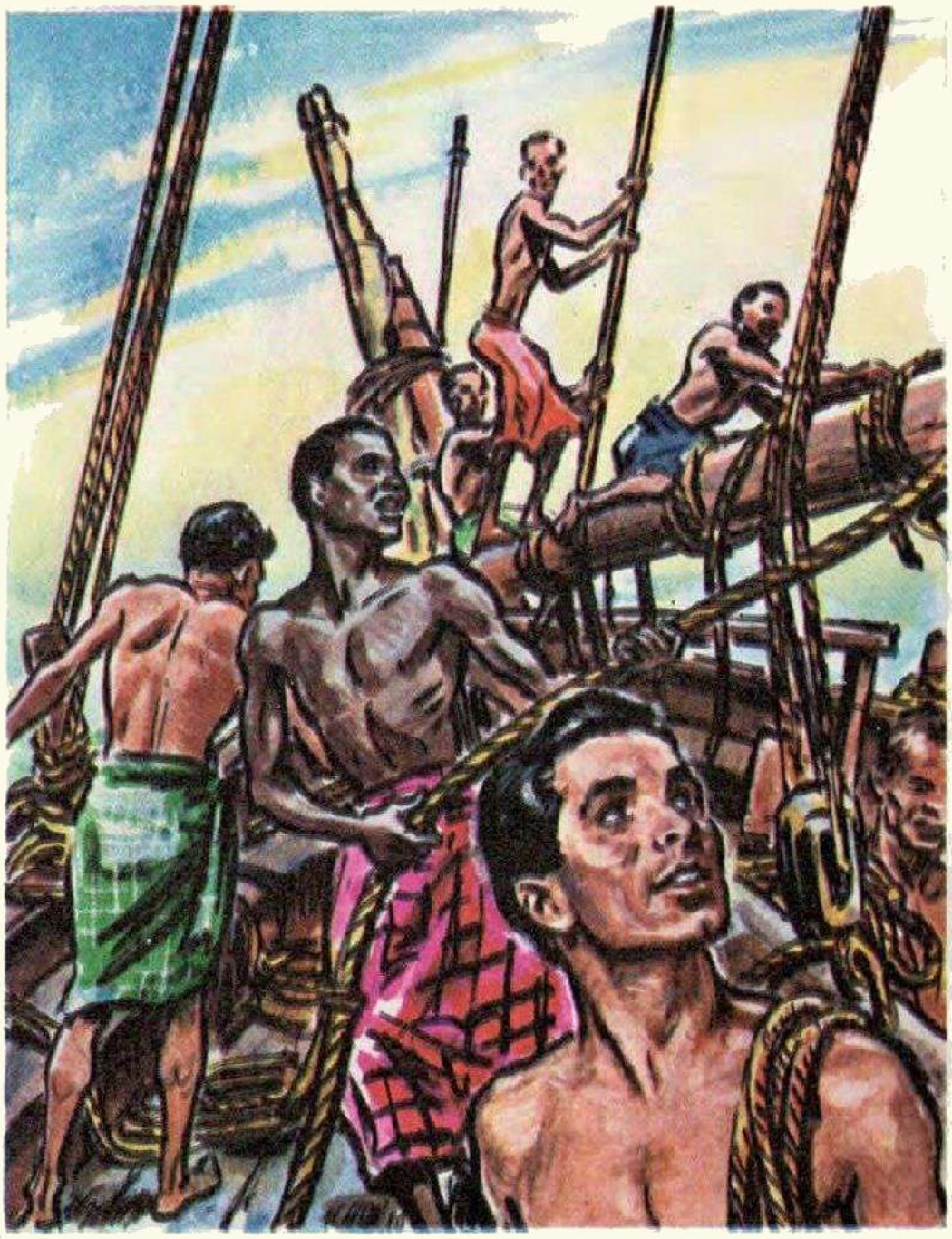
They do not find a pearl in every shell. Some shells have pearls. But many shells have no pearls. Some pearls are small. Others are big. Small pearls are cheap. But big ones are not cheap. They are expensive.



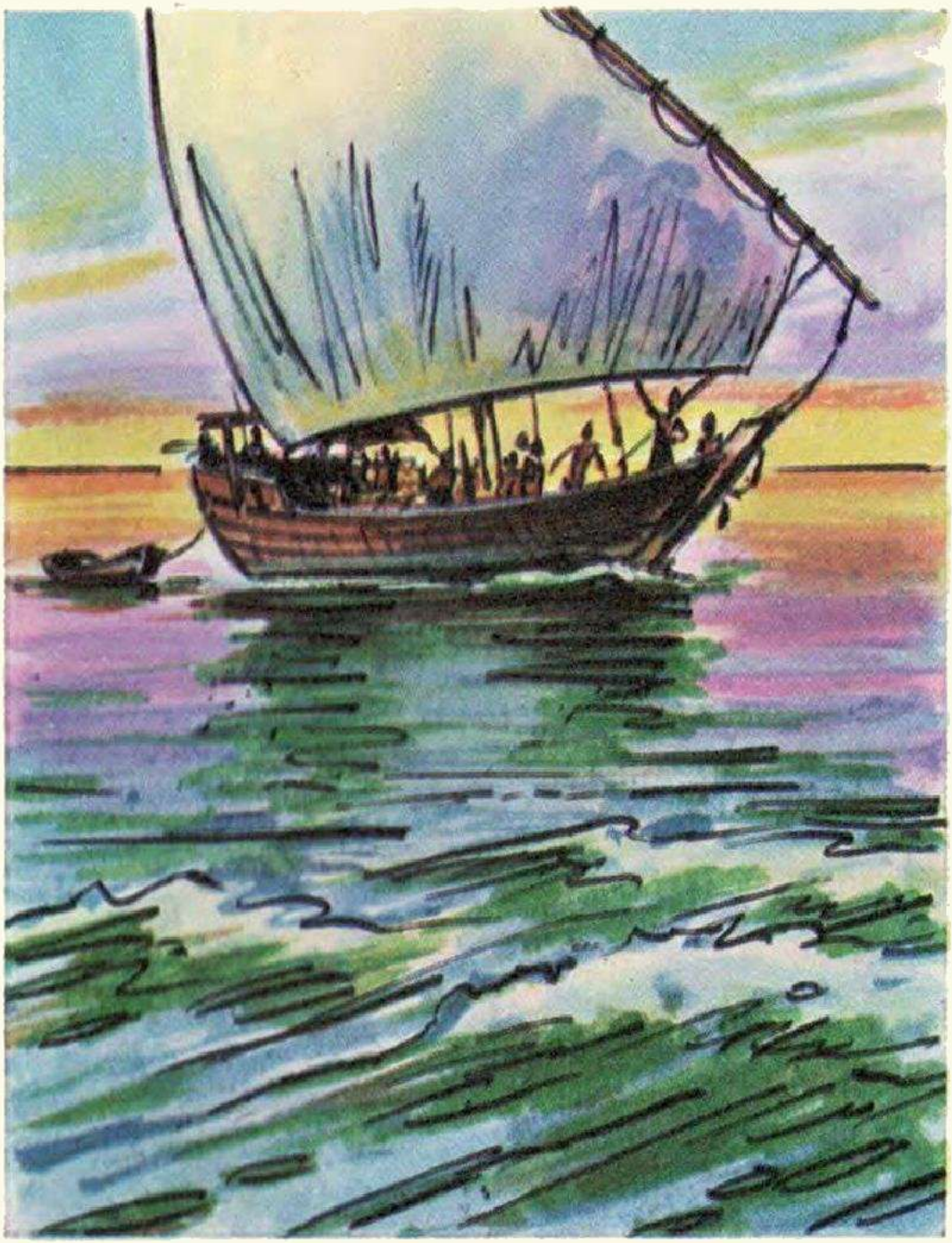
The divers finish a day's work. They sit together with the other men. They open shells too. They find some pearls. They are happy. They give all the pearls to the captain. He takes all the pearls.



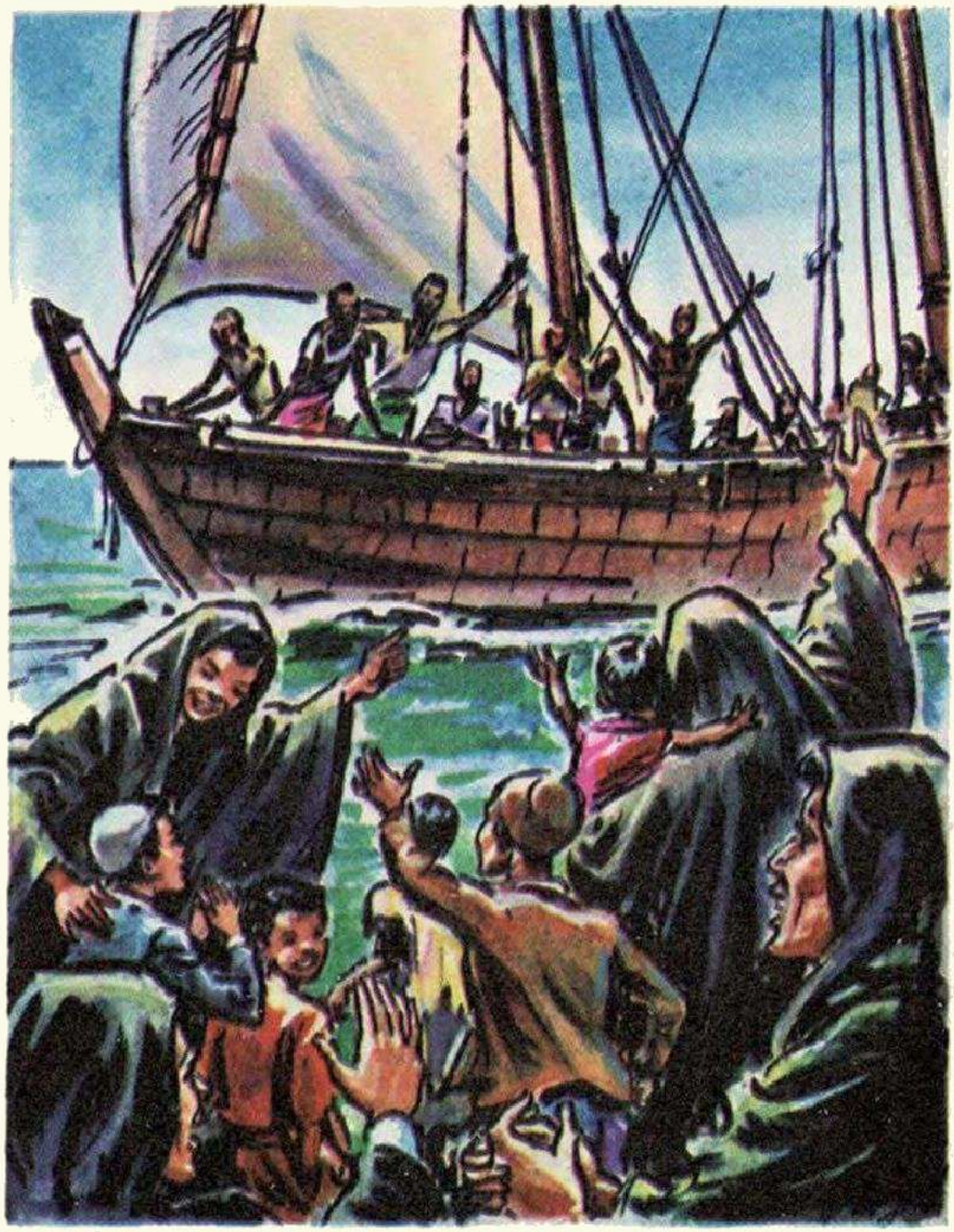
In the evening they eat. They dance and sing, too. The work is hard but the men are happy. They work hard and get money for their families. Their wives and children are waiting at home. They need money for food and clothes.



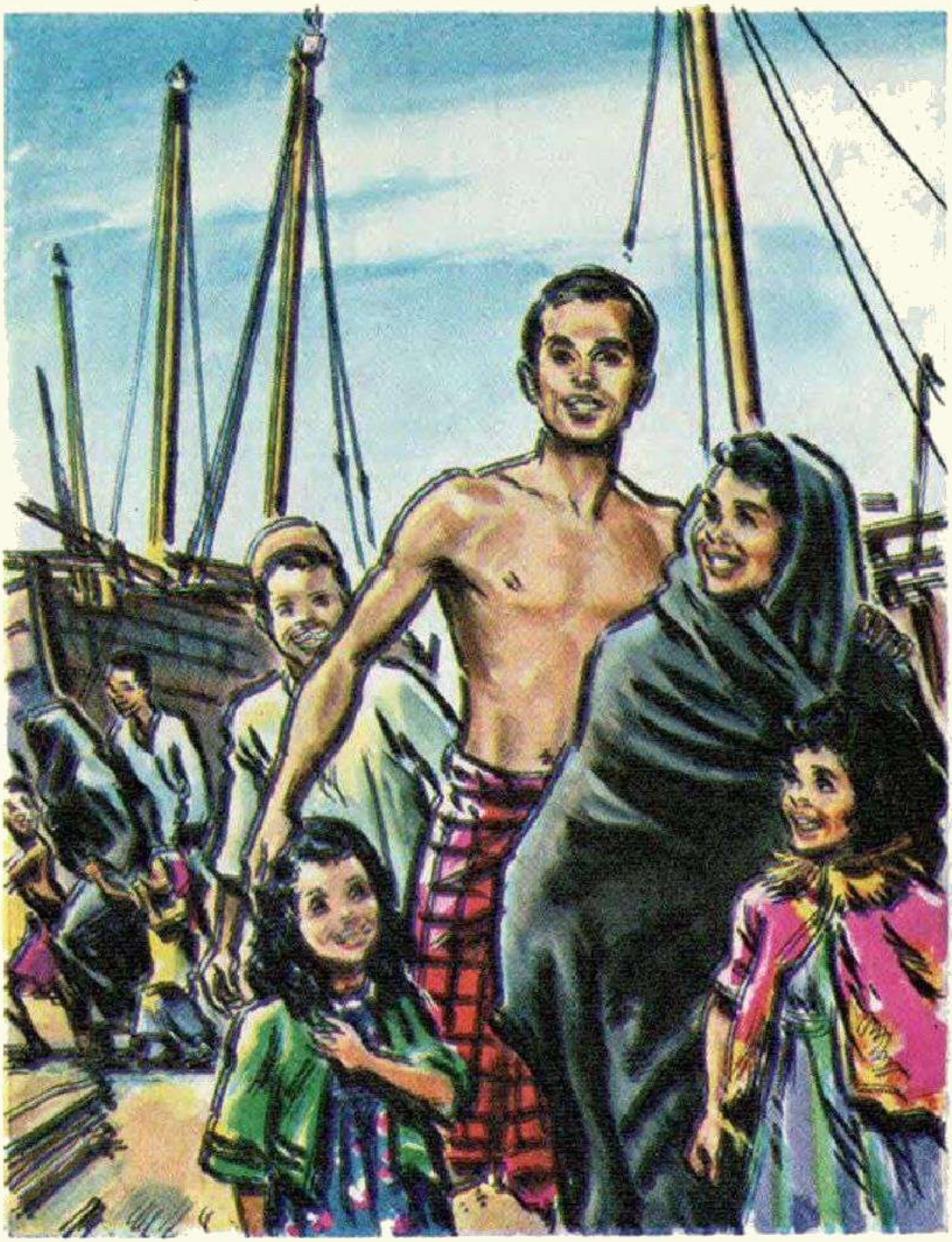
The men have stayed on the ship for two months. They have found a lot of pearls, but they are very tired. They are thin and weak. There isn't much food on the ship and the water is not good. They want to go home to their families.



Now they are going back. The ship is good. The wind is soft. They will be in Kuwait in a few days. The men are happy to go home.

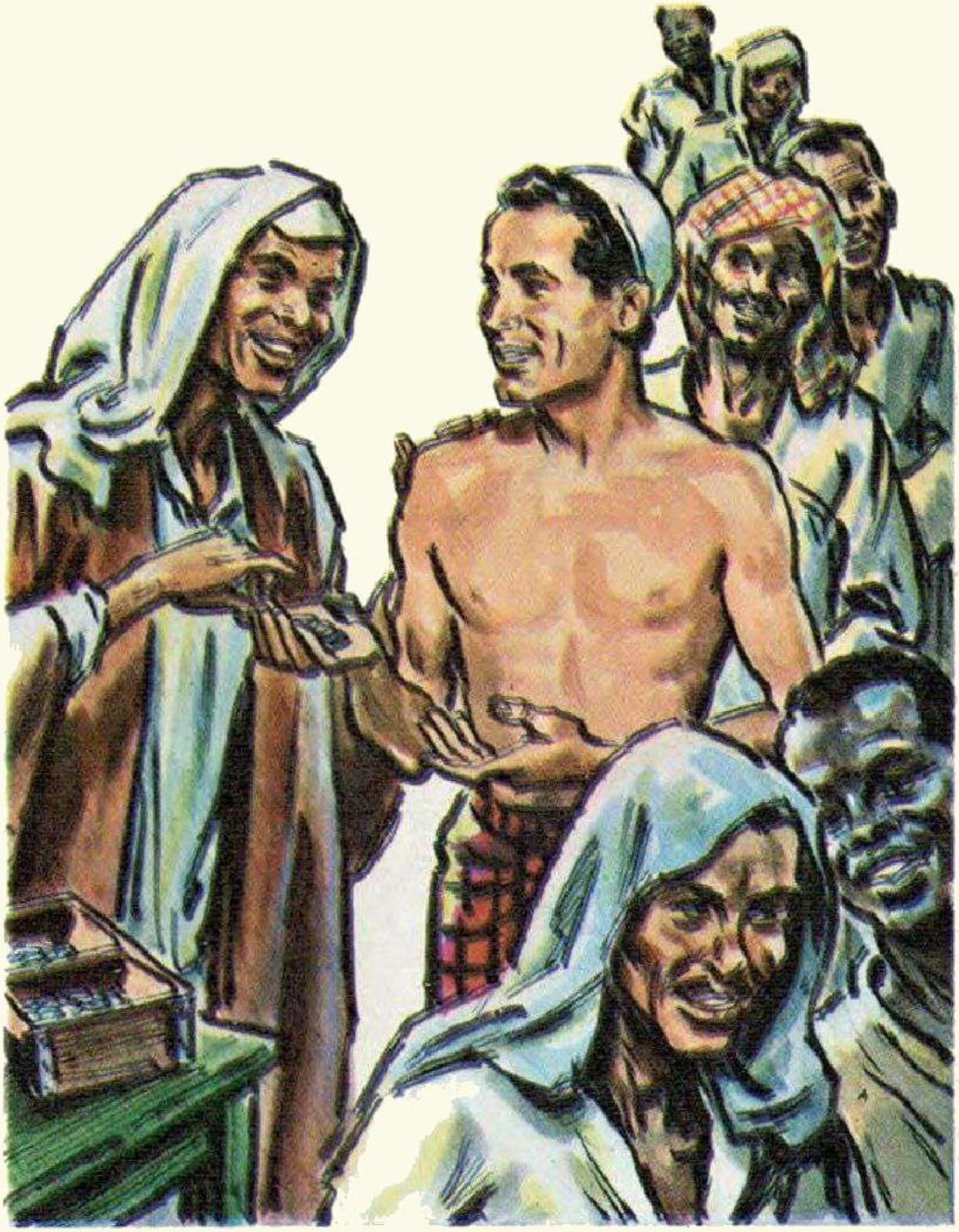


Now they are very near home. Their wives and children go to the seaside and wait. The ship comes very near the land. All the seamen are standing on one side of the ship. They wave to the people on the land. They are very happy.

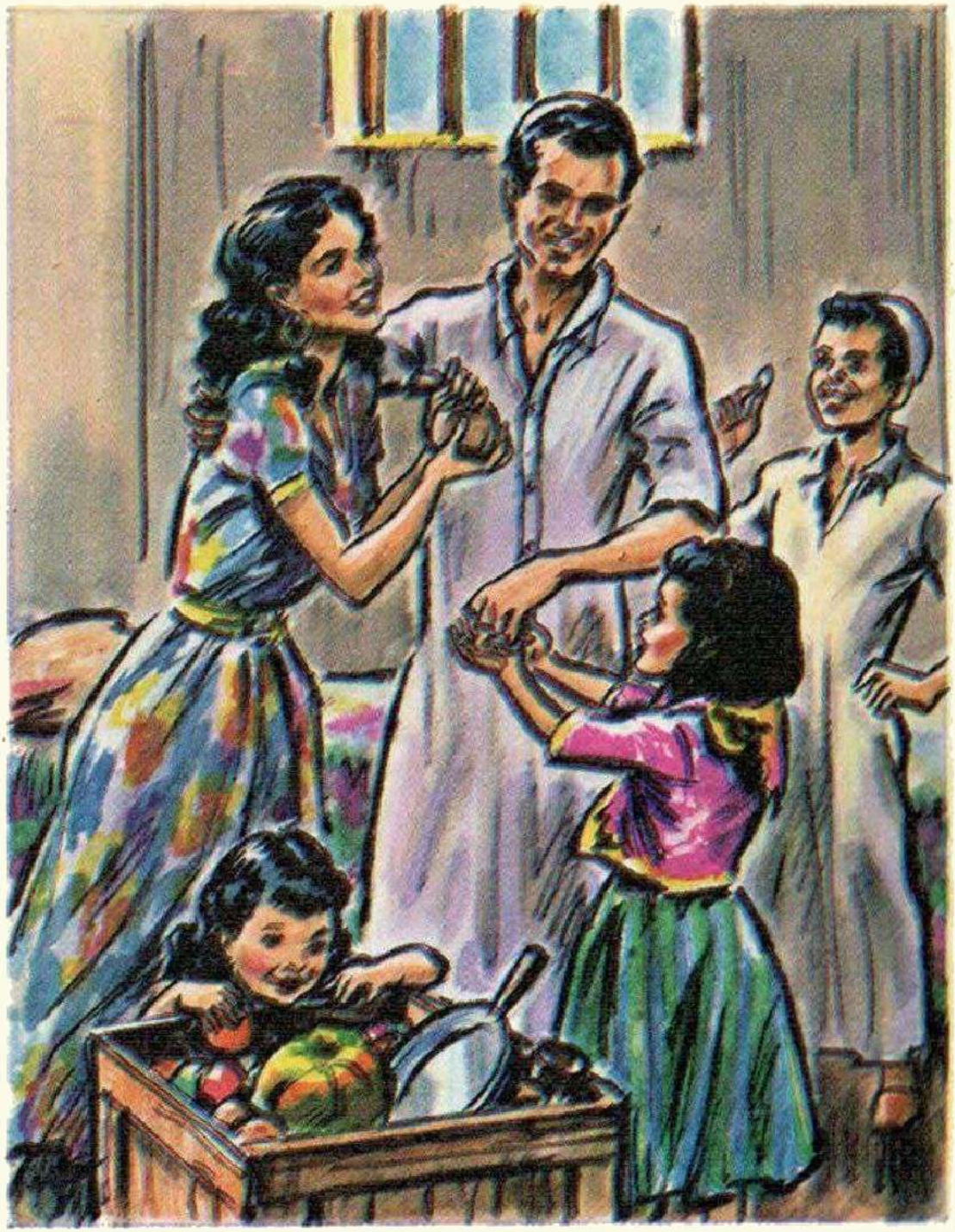


The ship has reached Kuwait. It has stopped. The seamen jump off the ship and look for their wives and children. They find them and then they all go home.

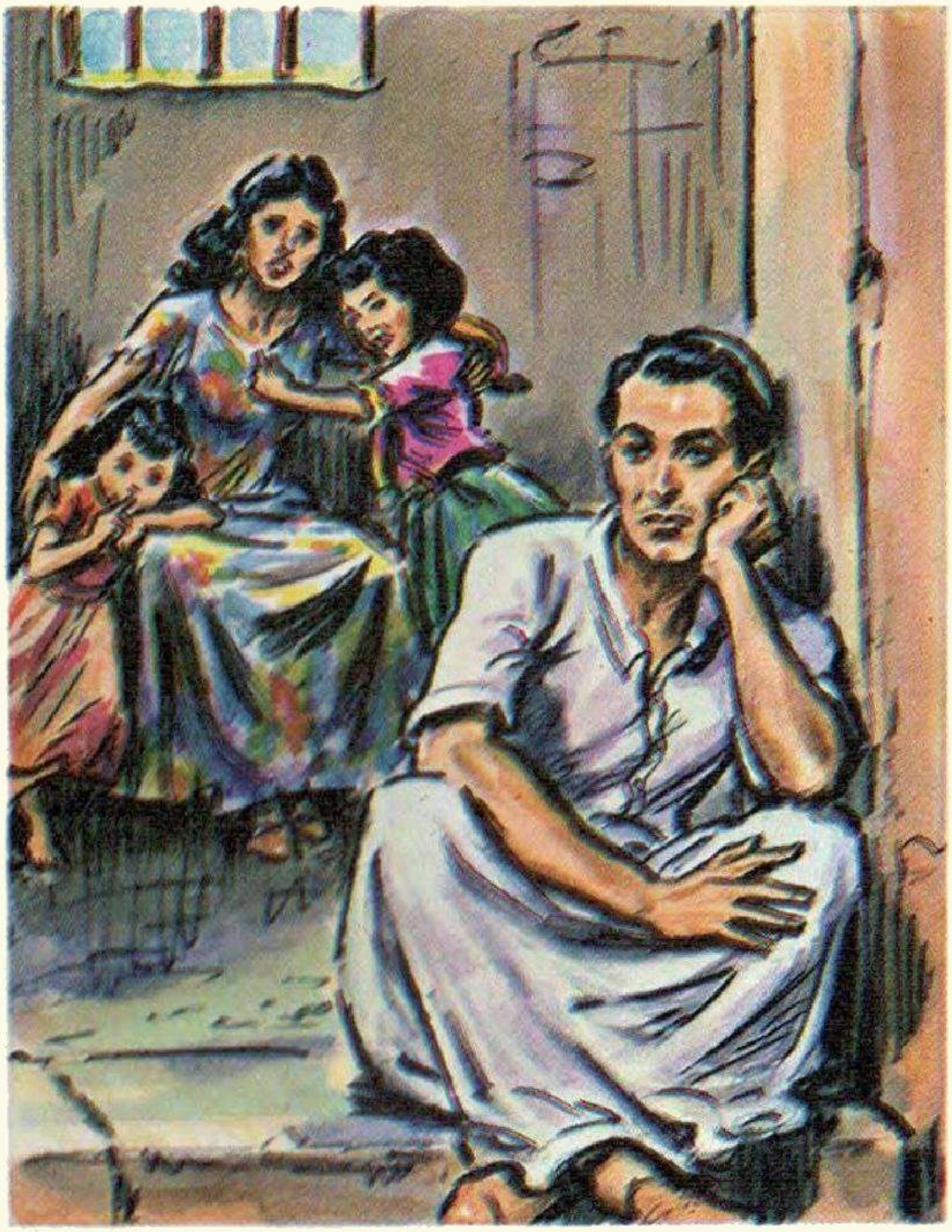
In the morning the captain goes to the market. He goes to Haj Ali. Haj Ali has a shop. He is a shopkeeper. He buys and sells pearls. The captain gives him the pearls, and he gives the captain a lot of money.



The captain calls Hamad and the other divers. He gives every diver some money. It is not much, but everybody is happy. Hamad takes his money. He thanks the captain. He says "Thank you."



Hamad goes home. Now he has a little money. He gives some to his children. He gives some to his wife. He buys food and clothes. He buys other things for the house. He keeps some money for the winter.



Hamad is poor. He stays at home for many months. He does not work. Now he hasn't any money. He must work on the ship again. Hamad wants a lot of money. He wants to become rich, but he cannot.